



# It's About Time...



Volume 3 Number 5

Spring 2000

## THE TRUTH ABOUT IMAM JAMIL ABDULLAH AL-AMIN (Formerly H. Rap Brown)

By JoNina M. Abron



"...They say I am an outlaw... I am a political prisoner, jailed for my beliefs-that black people must be free...I do what I must out of love for my people...History has shown that when a man's consciousness is aroused, when a man really believes, what he is doing, threats of jail and death cannot turn that man back..." H. Rap Brown, "Letters from Jail," from his political autobiography, *Die Nigger Die!* (1969)

The man formerly known as H. Rap Brown was born in Baton Rouge, La, in 1943. While a student at Southern University in New Orleans, Brown traveled to

Washington, D.C., in 1962 to visit his older brother, Ed, who was a student leader at Howard University. In the summer of 1964, Brown was among the hundreds of students and youth across America who participated in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee's mass voter registration drive of black people in Mississippi. Inspired by his experience in Mississippi, Brown dropped out of college and became a full-time SNCC activist, heading up a voter project in Alabama in 1964. He earned the nickname "Rap" because of his ability to talk to grassroots people.

As the Civil Rights era gave way to the Black Power era, Brown was elected chairman of SNCC in May, 1967, succeeding Carmichael. In July, 1967, when the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense merged with SNCC, Brown was named BPP Minister of Justice and later became a member of the BPP Central Committee. He was admired by black and white youth alike for his spirited activism and speeches on behalf of the Black Liberation struggle.

SNCC was one of the first targets of the FBI Counterintelligence Program created in August, 1967, to "...expose, disrupt, misdirect, discredit, or otherwise neutralize the activities of black nationalist, hate-type organizations and groupings, their leadership, spokesmen, membership and supporters..." Along with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., former SNCC chairman Stokely Carmichael (Kwame Ture), Elijah Muhammad, leader of the Nation of Islam, and Maxwell Stanford (Muhammad Ahmad), a leader of the Revolutionary Action Movement, Brown was placed on the FBI's "Rabble Rouser/Agitator Index."

Brown grew up in the Jim Crow South where the KKK and other white supremacists routinely terrorized African-Americans. He spoke the truth when he said over 30 years ago that "violence is as American as cherry pie." That statement has repeatedly been used by the establishment media to once again portray the man now known as

See AL-AMIN on Page 5

## RIOT ERUPTS AFTER FUNERAL FOR MAN KILLED BY POLICE

23 officers hurt; 27 people arrested

Protesters clashed with police after the funeral for the unarmed son of Haitian immigrants shot to death by an undercover officer. A miles-long procession of more than 3,000 protesters and mourners followed a hearse carrying the body of 26 year old Patrick Dorismond to the church.

Dorismond, a security guard and the son of Haitian singer Andre Dorismond, was shot after an undercover officer allegedly asked him if he would sell marijuana. The two scuffled, backup



See RIOT on Page 4

## DRIVING WHILE BLACK OR BROWN DWB is NOT a CRIME



### Fight Racial Profiling! Statewide Protest Demonstration

Thursday, April 27, 2000  
State Capital Building, Sacramento, CA  
Noon to 4PM  
Demand that Governor Davis sign the DWB bill (SB 1389)

For more info: Olivia Araiza (415) 621-2493, ext. 380  
e-mail: [oolariza@aclunc.org](mailto:oolariza@aclunc.org)  
Sponsored by the Racial Justice Coalition

## L.A. POLICE SCANDAL WIDENS

Two police officers from another division were indicted on federal charges of framing a suspect and lying under oath. The Ramparts Division scandal has led to 50 convictions being overturned, with another 50 or more pending. This scandal is estimated to cost the taxpayers of Los Angeles up to \$125 million. A recent survey in L.A. reveals that 83% of African Americans, 72% of Latinos and 43% of Whites believe police commonly commit acts of brutality.



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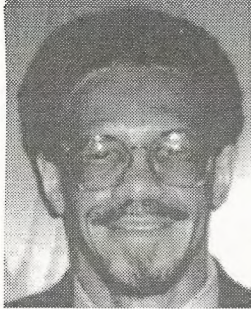
For More Information

P.O. Box 221100

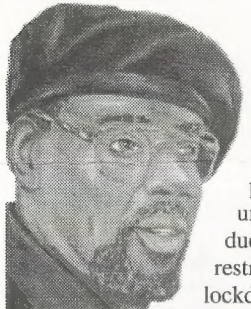
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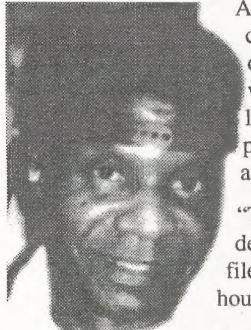
## ANGOLA 3 UPDATE: ACLU ALLEGES CRUELTY AT ANGOLA



Three Angola inmates who have spent 28 years in solitary confinement say the conditions are inhumane and unconstitutional. The American Civil Liberties Union filed a civil-rights lawsuit in the 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial Court on behalf of Herman Wallace, Albert Woodfox and Robert Wilkerson.



Wallace, 58, and Woodfox, 53, were framed for the 1972 stabbing death of a prison guard. Wilkerson, 56, was set up for the murder of another inmate, even though someone else confessed. The suit says the prison is subjecting the men to cruel and unusual punishment and denying them their due-process rights. They are in a highly restrictive area, referred to as extended lockdown, at Louisianan State Penitentiary at Angola. They are each kept in a 5-by-10 foot cell for 23 hours a day. They are allowed out of their cells an hour each day to shower and walk around the tier. Outside exercise is limited to three hours a week, weather permitting, and they are only allowed out one at a time.



"This basically is the same thing as being on death row," said Attorney Al Shapiro, who filed the suit. The extended lockdown tier once housed death row.

A lockdown board reviews each inmate's status every 90 days for possible release to a less restricted area, but the lawsuit claims the board is a sham. Shapiro said the board meets at the end of the tier and continues lockdown for inmates without any meaningful review. One of the inmates told him the board has sometimes already reviewed his case before he's made it to the end of the tier.

Angola Warden Burl Cain said the allegations raised in the lawsuit are meritless. "We're ready to go to court," he said. Cain said the inmates are in extended lockdown because they have been deemed security risks, not there as an added punishment.

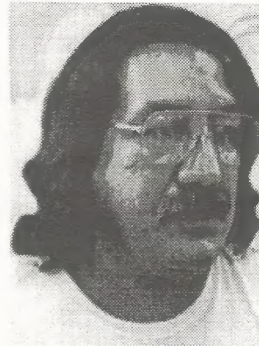
In fact, the Angola 3 were all placed in extended lockdown due to their affiliation with the Black Panther Party and their activities organizing within prison walls. Wilkerson was placed in lockdown upon his arrival at Angola, before the murder charge was brought against him. As a matter of fact, the murder charge was fabricated as an excuse to keep him on lockdown.

For more information: [www.prisonactivist.org/angolatwo](http://www.prisonactivist.org/angolatwo)

## SEND ELIAN HOME NOW!!!



## Leonard Peltier Receives Long Awaited Medical Treatment



Native American activist, Leonard Peltier, underwent surgery yesterday by a maxillofacial expert at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. Dr. E.E. Keller performed a five hour surgery on Peltier who had been suffering for the last four years from a severe condition which caused his jaw to be frozen open 13 millimeters. Keller reported that the surgery went smoothly and Peltier's jaw has been returned to normal. He reported that Peltier is happy and recovering comfortably.

Leonard Peltier was suddenly transferred from Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary to the Rochester Medical Facility on Monday, March 20. Peltier nor his attorneys knew that the transfer would take place.

Peltier contracted tetanus as a child which caused him to have long lasting problems with his jaw. However, two surgeries performed at the Federal Springfield Medial Facility in 1996 far worsened his condition and resulted in ankylosis.

Leonard Peltier, considered by Amnesty International to be a political prisoner who should be immediately and unconditionally released, was convicted in 1977 for the murders of two FBI agents. After being faced with formerly withheld evidence on appeal, casting serious doubt on Mr. Peltier's guilt, the prosecution admitted that it could not prove who actually shot the agents or what participation Mr. Peltier may have had in their deaths. Peltier will be reviewed for parole on June 12, 2000.

Call the White House Comments Line Today  
**DEMAND JUSTICE FOR LEONARD PELTIER! 202-456-1111**

**Leonard Peltier Defense Committee**  
PO Box 583 • Lawrence, KS 66044  
785-842-5774 • [www.freepeltier.org](http://www.freepeltier.org)

## AMEND THREE STRIKES: THE NEW DEATH SENTENCE

Signatures are being collected to put an initiative on the November ballot to amend the "Three Strikes" law in California to violent offenders only. The deadline is approaching, please get involved. For information on how to become involved, contact Malinda Rosell (310) 884-5914, Roberta Robles (714) 685-9746, or FACTS - Families to Amend Three Strikes, PO Box 21613, San Jose, CA 95151-1613 (408) 977-2121  
e-mail: [sjfacts2@aol.com](mailto:sjfacts2@aol.com), or [mucsuss@pacbell.net](mailto:mucsuss@pacbell.net),  
website: [www.facts1.com](http://www.facts1.com)

## It's About Time sends a solidarity salute to:

Harambee Afrikan Cultural Org.,  
and Education Chairman, Wopashitwe Mondo Eyen we Langa  
(David Rice), who continues to educate and organize behind bars in  
Lincoln, Nebraska • PO Box 2500 • Lincoln, NE 68542-2500



## VINCENT SIMMONS: FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE

Vincent Simmons has been in Angola Prison in Louisiana since 1977, serving the first 23 years of a hundred year sentence for rape. Vincent was accused of the aggravated rape of fourteen year old twin white girls, Sharon and Karen Sanders. During all this time, Vincent has consistently maintained his innocence and has managed to amass evidence to prove this.

Vincent never received a fair trial. He was shot in the police station immediately after his arrest because he refused to confess. At the original trial both twins said that Vincent "brutally raped" them, yet the report on the medical examination of the twins after the attack showed that one of them was still a virgin after the attack and there was no bruising or evidence of any other injuries to her. The other girl told the doctor she had intercourse several months previously with another man. At the trial, the twins identified Vincent Simmons as their attacker, yet they are on record as saying that all black people look the same to them and of using the term "nigger" to describe Vincent. They identified Vincent from a police line up in which he was the only person wearing handcuffs.

Vincent's trial lawyer also did not provide an adequate defense. He did not obtain the medical reports, question the line-up, or the way the police carried out the so-called investigation.

Vincent had a parole hearing about two years ago which can be seen in the film documentary "The Farm" about Angola Prison. He presented this new evidence he has worked years to acquire and it was not even reviewed by board members who had obviously predetermined that they would deny him.

Vincent desperately needs our help. Only public opinion can help force a retrial for Vincent. Otherwise he will spend the rest of his life in prison.

For more info: Annabelle McCumbers, PO Box 190,  
Grantsville, West Virginia 26147 e-mail: [Annabelle37@excite.com](mailto:Annabelle37@excite.com)  
[www.geocities.com/vincent\\_simmons](http://www.geocities.com/vincent_simmons)  
Video documentaries - "The Farm" and "Shadows of Doubt"

## Janitors Strike for a Living Wage

Striking janitors won a courtroom victory against a restraining order preventing them from blocking entrances of office buildings. Over 3000 marched in the streets of Los Angeles and the strike has now spread to San Diego. Workers want an increase in wages; most janitors in L.A. earn \$7.05 per hour, poverty level wages. Help has come from the Teamsters and AFL/CIO. In Sacramento, we must support the Justice for Janitors struggle also.



## NADER IN SACTO

by Sheba Haven

Ralph Nader came to Sacramento on March 20, 2000. Of the approximately 300 people in the audience I counted only six blacks, four Asians, and maybe another four Hispanic persons. Although the Green Party message is humanitarian, ecological and anti-corporate global domination, it seems its pro-people message is lost on people of color. This is regrettable as the "Demopublican" parties have a long history of treachery in the day-to-day effects of their administrations.

Perhaps more people of color will become actively involved now that the Greens have linked corporate global domination to the exploding United States prison population, comprised primarily of people of color.

When asked to speak directly to this question, Nader responded with a surprising amount of information, e.g., that of the 2 million (+) people incarcerated in US prisons, 85,000 are incarcerated in private, for-profit facilities. He also revealed that persons in privately run prisons are held in solitary confinement on a more frequent basis than those in state-run prisons, as solitary confinement adds time to the prisoner's period of "servitude". Today prison wages range from 25 cents/hr., to minimum wage for jobs such as telemarketing, customer service and light manufacturing.

The most strongly emphasized aspect of Ralph Nader's presentation was the need for grassroots organization to counter the influence of corporations and highly financed, ultra-conservative, single interest lobbies. Although the Green Party has an uphill battle, especially in state wide and national campaigns, they are a welcome addition to the electoral debate. For more information on Nader's campaign, visit his website at [votener.com](http://votener.com), or visit your local chapter of the Green Party.

## Over 100 Protest Racial Profiling and Police Brutality in Kalamazoo, Michigan

By JoNina M. Abron and Lorenzo Komboa Ervin  
*Black Autonomy News Service*

With cries of "no more naked jailings, prosecute the cops!", over 10 demonstrators marched in this small Southwest Michigan city (pop. 85,000) to protest recent "driving while black" arrests and the jailings of over 25 predominantly black men and their forced nude imprisonment in the city and county jails, many without food or water.

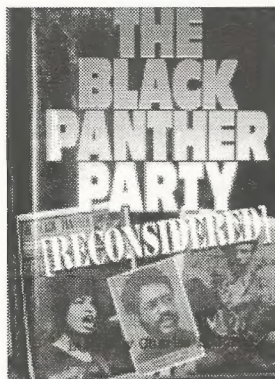
Activists from Lansing and Detroit joined the march through the center of the black community on the city's northside, picking up many others by the time they reached the center of downtown for a rally at Kalamazoo City Hall. Many in passing cars honked their horns in support. There has been extensive local reporting on the naked jailing cases and the numerous incidents of local black residents who have been stopped in DWB/racial profiling cases, which have outraged the public.

The demonstration was sponsored by the Southwest Michigan Coalition Against Racism and Police Brutality, a project of the newly created group, the Black Autonomy Network of Community Organizers (BANCO). BANCO is dedicated to building a grassroots, poor people's survival movement in black communities across America.

For more info: Black Autonomy News Service, PO Box 19962,  
Kalamazoo, MI 49019 (616) 337-7653



## SCHOLARS AND FORMER PANTHERS JOIN FORCES TO PRODUCE GROUND-BREAKING VOLUME ON THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY



With the turbulence of the 1960's as its birth mother, the Black Panther Party developed into one of America's most storied and controversial political groups. Extensive coverage of the recent death of former Panther Eldridge Cleaver demonstrates continued national and international interest in these ardent radicals. Founded in Oakland, Ca., the Panthers - and their significance in America's urban revolutionary politics - still remain a topic of spiritual debate more than thirty years later.

Were the Panthers heroic Black revolutionaries or self-destructive, heavily armed street thugs? Somewhere between the two extremes is a captivating discussion, *The Black Panther Party Reconsidered* (\$29.95, Black Classic Press, 1-800-476-8870), edited by Dr. Charles E. Jones, provides that forum, delivering in eighteen essays the most advanced substantive look at the Party ever presented.

"The Panthers are really an integral part of the long struggle of Black people for justice and equality," notes Jones, who is chairman of the African American Studies Department of Georgia State University. He regularly teaches and lectures on the Panthers. "We should not be distracted by the myths that surround the Panthers nor should we fall into hero worshipping," Jones continues. "These were real people who took a stand. Most were young and dedicated, and really cared about the world they lived in. They wanted to make it better, and I wanted to make sure their story was told."

The essays - written by scholars and former Party members - present a dialogue that covers the breadth of the Panther experience: its meteoric rise, its destructive end, and its enigmatic legacy. This is a ground-breaking collection that offers thought-provoking, pertinent observations about the many facets of the Party, including gender dynamics, organizational struggles, and the internal and external factors that eventually contributed to the Party's demise. The organizational records, documents from the government's counterintelligence program (COINTELPRO), and other government publications used in researching these essays bring a chilling perspective to a chaotic period in American history.

Publisher Paul Coates' focused dedication to the project, four years in the making, reflects his own involvement as coordinator for the Baltimore branch of the Black Panther Party. "I was a Panther, and now as a publisher, I have the opportunity to make available valuable information about the Panthers that has been previously overlooked or misconstrued," Coates says.

Interestingly, even among themselves, the scholars and the former Panthers who write here don't always agree in their assessments of the Party and its politics. Yet, the resulting discourse is the most valuable asset of *The Black Panther Party Reconsidered* - providing readers a unique opportunity to examine the Party from an intimate yet critical perspective that has been missing in many previous works devoted to Panther history.

## RESOURCES FOR THE WRONGLY CONVICTED

1. AIDWYC - The Association in Defense of the Wrongly Convicted, 438 University Ave., 19<sup>th</sup> Floor, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5G 2K8 • Phone: 416-531-8019
2. Centurion Ministries, c/o Jim McCloskey, 32 Nassau St., 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Princeton, New Jersey 08542
3. Innocence Project, c/o Professor Barry Scheck, Cardozo School of Law • Brookdale Center, 55 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10003-4391
4. Southern Center for Human Rights, c/o Professor Stephen Bright • 83 Poplar St., N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303-2122
5. Justice Denied - Internet Magazine [www.justicedenied.org](http://www.justicedenied.org)  
Clara Boggs HC-83, Box 402, Coquille, OR 97423

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Northern California DREADLOCK CONFERENCE 2000 "Right Dread Into The Millennium"

May 6, 2000  
10 am to 8 pm  
Sam Pannell Community Ctr  
24<sup>th</sup> Street and  
Meadowview Rd.  
Sacramento, Ca



Workshops Vendors, Youth Activities, Entertainment, Music, Food, Demonstrations and Dreadlocks from everywhere!

Proceeds to benefit the Wo'se Community Church Building Fund and the Campaign to Save Mumia Abu-Jamal  
Donation: \$12 adults, \$8 seniors and students, \$2 children under 12

Friday, May 5 - Spoken Word  
Conference Lift-Off - 6:30 to 9:30 pm  
Wo'se Community Church -  
35<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., Sacramento, CA

Hair It Is! Bring your hair poems and pieces to share! Open Mic, Music, Refreshments All Welcome! \$3 donation

For more information call Staajabu (916) 443-3322 or e-mail [staajabu@usa.net](mailto:staajabu@usa.net) For vendor info: Karen Green (916) 954-2454  
e-mail [kgreen06@acninc.net](mailto:kgreen06@acninc.net) Website: [www.wose.net](http://www.wose.net)

## RIOT from Page 1

officers arrived and one officer's gun went off, killing Dorismond.

This is the latest police shooting to inflame tensions between Mayor Rudolph Guiliani and the black community. Guiliani has been criticized for releasing information from Dorismond's sealed juvenile police files and for not visiting the family. Becoming an issue in his U.S. Senate race, against Hillary Rodham Clinton, she said last week that the GOP mayor's "utter failure of leadership" was a sign that he couldn't be trusted.



## LIL BOBBY HUTTON in the Year 2000

By Warren Wells

When I met Lil Bobby in late 1967, he was 17 and I was 20. He had never been to prison. I had just been released from Soledad. I thought I would teach Lil Bobby about being a Soldier! But he taught me - you see, I was a Panther because of my rage, my hate, and my desire to get even with the oppressors. I really didn't even see my people. Lil Bobby was a Panther for only one reason. His love for his people and his need to serve them. Lil Bobby was what the Party was intended to be, not what we turned out to be.

On the night of April 6, 1968, trapped under a burning bullet riddled house on 28<sup>th</sup> and Union streets, laying next to Eldridge, his clips empty, it was love, not hate that caused Lil Bobby to step through the burning basement door into a barrage of police bullets!

Eldridge had told him to strip naked so they couldn't say he was going for a gun. Lil Bobby said, man! Now how I'm gonna look to my people naked.

So, if we are going to shout his name without loving his people, we have disrespected his memory...The memory of Lil Bobby is about loving each other. Loving each other so much that we would die in the blink of an eye, serving each other...Lil Bobby would say, no 12 or 13 year old girls on our corners, Lil Bobby would say: Hands off Assata, Free Mumia and he would say remember George Jackson, Jonathan Jackson, Twyman Myers, William Christmas, James McClain, Alprentice "Bunchy" Carter, John Huggins, and so many more it would fill a newspaper.

Long Live the Spirit of the first Panther - Lil Bobby Hutton.

Warren Wells #B23864

PO Box 409000, A4-238 • Ione, Ca 95640

## LIL BOBBY HUTTON DAY What Does it Mean?

April 22 is the day our peoples gather to pay tribute to a son, brotha, fallen comrade; a revolutionary in action and in deeds that has marked his place in history - that's what it means!

April 22 is the day we speak of an unsung hero, a mentor, a role model, a revolutionary spirit for our youths to look to for purpose and direction, to stand up for a CAUSE that serve the interest of our peoples fighting for all-that's what it means!

April 22 is the day that our peoples are sharing knowledge, history, poetry, short stories, speeches, ideas, visions, commitments to continue fulfilling what Lil Bobby Hutton lived and died defending - that's what it means!!!

In the Spirit of Lil Bobby Hutton!

Each one reach one teach one!

Bro. Paul A. Redd Jr.

### It's About Time...

Publishing Committee

William (Billy X) Jennings	Editor
JoNina Abron	Contributions
Gail Shaw	Contributions
Clark Bailey	Contributions



The 3rd Annual

## Lil' Bobby Hutton Day

We're celebrating the life of a young  
souljah that was 'bout his people!

**April 22, 2000**

**Lil' Bobby Hutton Park aka Defermery Park**

Speakers • Entertainment • Music • Spoken Word

**18th & Adeline • West Oakland • 12 noon - 5pm**

When Lil' Bobby Hutton was 15 years old, he was one of the first people to join the Black Panther Party (B.P.P.), that was founded by Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale on October 15, 1966. One of his first duties in the B.P.P. was to learn the Ten Point Platform that the B.P.P. was based on.

As a Panther, Lil' Bobby participated in a campaign that patrolled Oakland's police to try and hinder some of the police brutality and murder that was going on. He also

helped the residents of North Oakland organize to get a stop light on the corner, where people were getting hit by cars frequently.

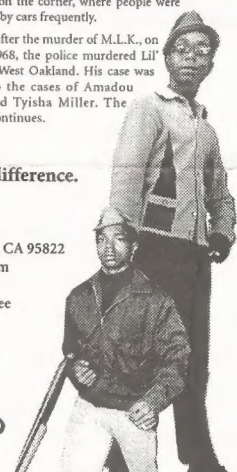
Two days after the murder of M.L.K., on April 6, 1968, the police murdered Lil' Bobby in West Oakland. His case was similar to the cases of Amadou Diallo and Tyisha Miller. The struggle continues.



One person can make a difference.

Sponsored by  
It's About Time  
P.O. Box 221100 • Sacramento, CA 95822  
itsabouttime3@juno.com  
&  
The One Nation Committee  
Oakland

For More Info Call  
510-869-4516



## AL-AMIN from Page 1

Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin as a dangerous outlaw for allegedly killing a Fulton County sheriff's deputy on March 16, 2000. In *Die Nigger Die!* H. Rap Brown wrote: "Media is used against (blacks) in total...The tactic of media is to make you an enemy of the people. Enemies of the people are always vulnerable."

Up until his recent arrest, Imam Al-Amin was a community leader and a businessman on Atlanta's West End. Nevertheless, the US government has continued to harass Al-Amin. In 1995, he was framed for allegedly shooting a black man on the West End. It was later discovered that the police had pressured the victim to make up the story in order to avoid pending criminal charges. It was also at this time that the Atlanta police and the FBI arrested a so-called "Muslim bankrobbing crew," allegedly composed of 5% Nation members and others. The group was accused of engaging in underground expropriations and arms smuggling. Law enforcement authorities implied that Al-Amin was tied to the alleged robbers, implying that he was "inciting Muslim armed conflict." He was never formally charged, but the news media strongly implied his guilt.

We, the undersigned, are outraged at the establishment media's rush-to-judgment portrayal of Al-Amin as "a violent criminal" who must be guilty. He most likely will face the death penalty once he goes on trial, and we are concerned that the media's biased portrayal of Al-Amin may prevent him from getting a fair trial.

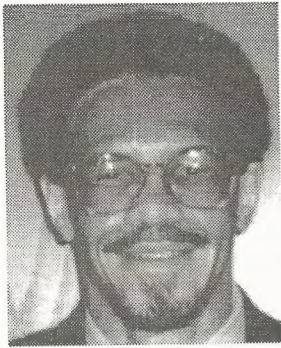
Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin is not a criminal. He is a hero of the Black Liberation struggle, whom we love, honor and respect. He has been defending the black community for over half his life. Now, we must defend him.

Signed,

(If you would like to have your name added as a signer to this ad to be placed in Black publications/media, please e-mail Sis. Marpessa Kupendua at natyreb@ix.netcom.com



## THE FIRST STEP



An old Chinese proverb says that a journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step. My journey for revolutionary change began over thirty years ago, and although it is far from complete, and time has changed my body, the spirit that caused me to take that first step still burns as strong as ever.

But it is that first step that is most important. It has made all that has happened in my life possible. I don't know how my journey will

end and since that mystery still exists, I must take solace in the journey itself - the many revolutionary acts that I have been a part of which have changed the prison and changed people I have encountered.

In 1969, after being convicted of armed robbery and sentenced to 55 years hard labor my strongest instinct was to survive. To me that sentence was a direct threat to my life and I made my decision to survive by any means necessary. I escaped.

With the aid of friends and a corrupt prison system, I was able to escape and make my way to New York City. My second day there I found myself in Harlem. But this was not the Harlem I had visited as a petty criminal seeking criminal enterprise - in this case drugs. This Harlem had a new force at work. That force was the Black Panther Party.

For the first time in my life, I saw African men and women who showed no sign of fear but were very proud, strong, focused and with purpose. But that purpose was not to survive at any cost even if it meant the destruction of the community or the people in it. The purpose I saw in these people was to survive by taking control of their communities, by protecting and serving the people. They were teaching the people that they had the right, and power, to stand as a united force and determine the character of their communities.

It has been thirty years since that day, and I would like to think that I have changed in many ways. Experience has given me wisdom and many achievements, as well as failures. It has helped me build character. My strength has always come from the people, even in very dark periods of my life. I have never lost that belief.

Eventually, I was once again the victim of Amerikkkan justice and found myself in the infamous Manhattan House of Detention, also known as the toms. I was placed on a tier that held several members of the Black Panther Party. I'm sorry to say that time has robbed me of their names, but not the impact they had on my life.

For the first time, I was part of a discussion that involved subjects I had never been exposed to. Economics and its impact on shaping society; poverty's direct relation to prison and so-called crime. I had my first glimpse of African history, both in Africa and throughout the world. I heard discussions about enormous achievements made by many people - from the first colonists who landed in America through the present time, and I was astounded to learn the men and women being discussed were Africans.

But being confronted with so many new ideas, I was afraid, confused and lost. That is until I read a book I borrowed from another brother in one of New York's many prisons. This book was the beginning of my life. It is called "A Different Drummer," by

William Melvin Kelly. After reading this book I suddenly understood all the discussions, debate, ideological struggles that these brothers waged and put forth in the name of the Black Panther Party.

This book was the catalyst for change in my life. And it led me to be open to the courage, dignity and pride of the Black Panther Party and its platform for change and empowerment of African Americans, other minorities and poor whites. It was the Black Panther Party that gave me the courage to take the first step.

My journey is far from complete and the Panther Party no longer exists as an organized unit. But I would hope that as long as I, or any other comrade who once pledged to uphold the principles of the Black Panther Party, still lives, that the spirit of the Panther Party will. Remember that "Power to the People" is an eternity, a reality and an achievable goal, but only if we never give up in our struggles to serve and protect the people, as long as we keep the Panther Party alive in our hearts and memory.

A. Shaka Cinque

AKA Albert Woodfox, Angola 3

## CELEBRATE THE CHILDREN OF RESISTANCE!

Saturday, April 29, 2000, 7:30pm

Berkeley Community Theatre,

1930 Allston Way (at Milvia), Berkeley, CA

This uplifting theatrical event features dramatic reading interwoven with poetry and song, celebrating families and communities who struggle for social justice.

Featuring Danny Glover, Holly Near, Mazi Jamal (son of Mumia), Lisa Bari (daughter of Judi Bari), Robert and Michael Meeropol (sons of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg) and many others. Narrated by Ed Asner.

Tickets available through City Box Office (415) 392-4400, BASS (510) 762-BASS or the Middle East Children's Alliance (510) 548-0542, \$23

Low income balcony seating \$10 available at the following bookstores: East Bay - Cody's, Black Oak, Walden Pond; San Francisco - Modern Times; Petaluma - Copperfields

### Where to Find the "It's About Time Newsletter" in Sacramento, CA

K.I.N.K.S. International, 629 15<sup>th</sup> St.

Carol's Books, 5974 South Land Park Dr.

Flowers Fish Market, 3224 Martin Luther King Blvd.

Peace Action Center, 909 12<sup>th</sup> Street, #8

Sacramento State University - the MultiCultural Office

U.C. Davis - The Cross-Cultural Office, (in Davis)

The Culture Collection at Florin Mall

The Women's Civic Improvement Center in Oak Park

Tower Books at 16<sup>th</sup> and Broadway



## MOTHERS IN PRISON, CHILDREN IN CRISIS

**Demonstration in the San Francisco Civic Center;  
The Friday before Mother's Day,  
May 12, from Noon to 1:00pm.**

This is an annual demonstration that is coordinated in 23 cities nationwide to speak out and raise consciousness about the 80% of women in prison who are mothers, their children and what is happening to them, and the role that our judicial system is playing in their family life.

A massive turn out is very important for us to accomplish our goals for this demonstration. Please encourage others to attend, spread the work! Donations to help cover the costs would also greatly be appreciated.

If your organization would be interested in co-sponsoring this event, or if you or someone you know would be interested in speaking at or volunteering for it, or for more information, contact:

Families with a Future  
100 McAllister St., Ste 200  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
(415) 255-7036, Ext. 320

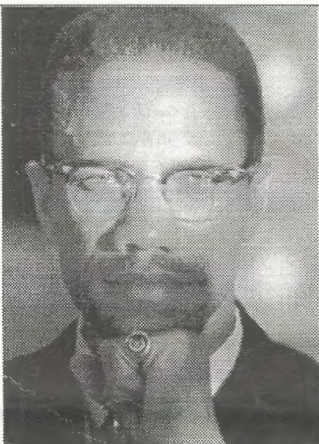
National Coordination by  
Justice Works Community  
Brooklyn NY  
lspc@igc.org

## Malcolm X Day

**SAT., May 20**  
**1pm - until**

**W. Oakland  
BRANCH LIBRARY  
1801 Adeline St.**

EMAIL: [ITSABOUTTIME3@JUNO.COM](mailto:ITSABOUTTIME3@JUNO.COM)



**If I had a dollar for every time  
I've been pulled over...**

Tell the ACLU about your race-based stop, call  
**1-877-DWB-STOP**

aclu

## The IMF (International Monetary Fund) and World Bank

We support the protests against the IMF and World Bank. Thousands of men, women and children forged a human chain around the Capitol in Washington D.C. recently to focus attention on the upcoming annual meetings of the IMF and World Bank. The demonstrators want the organizations to forgive billions in loan-payment debt so poor countries can use the money for education, health care and other social needs.

The IMF and World Bank were established after World War II, in theory to stabilize international currencies and help nations lift their people out of poverty. In fact, much of the money has been used to prop up corrupt governments and benefit banks, rich investors and private corporations, more than poor people. Some third world countries pay more in debt interest each year than their gross national product, at the expense of social safety nets for the poor.

"The record if the IMF and World Bank is one of unmitigated failure," said Njoki Njoroge Njehu, director of the 50 Years is Enough Network, one of the sponsors of the Washington protests. Another sponsor is Jubilee 2000, also an international organization working to bring public awareness to this unjust and inhumane situation.

## BLACKLIKUS!

Another Black man is dead  
killed by police  
had no weapon - had no clue  
his name was Amadou but it  
could have been me or it  
could have been you  
Another Black woman is dead  
killed by police - locked in her car  
they said she was sleep  
shot her just as sure - as you born  
so much mourning  
gong on these days  
Another Black man  
lynched, dragged, decapitated,  
sodomized, humiliated,  
discriminated against  
hate-crimes  
could have been you, me  
your momma, daddy, sister  
brother, friend going down  
for the last time in a hail of  
gunfire, gun smoke, racial slurs  
him and her caskets  
basket cases

tears and moans  
neighborhood meetings  
rallies, protest vigils again  
here we go again, again  
and again and again  
standing in the center of this  
circle of hate called the USA  
Why do they hate us so momma?  
Why do they want to kill daddy?  
Why is it an automatic death sentence  
To be born Black and a cause for  
celebration to reach the  
age of 50 in this country Black  
'cause you somehow managed to  
escape the poverty,  
drugs, gang wars, disease,  
toxic waste, pesticides  
and traffic stops by cops  
that hate you just because  
of the color of your skin  
just because of the color of your skin  
just because of the color of your skin  
Just because you're Black?

By Staajabu February 11, 1999

## Straight Out Scribes

See them at Bobby Hutton Day  
in Oakland.

Check out Blu Magazine!!  
Women in Struggle

Straight Out Scribes  
2615 D St., #2  
Sacramento, CA 95816

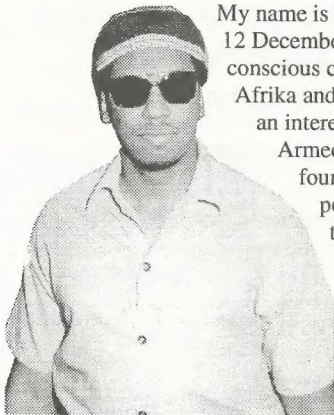
[www.angelfire.com.bi22/straightoutscribes](http://www.angelfire.com.bi22/straightoutscribes)



V.S. Chochezi, Staajabu



## Trial and Tribulation of an Unsung Freedom Fighter



My name is Zolo Agona Azania. i was born on 12 December 1954. i am a Muslim and a conscious citizen of the Republic of New Afrika and freedom fighter. I've always had an interest in the Black Panther Party for Armed Self-Defense and Peace since its founding in October 1966. i was not politically conscious nor active at the time.

My political-social consciousness and re-education process did not begin until 1974 when i became a Black Panther student while incarcerated. I was introduced by two leading members of the

Indianapolis chapter whom were also incarcerated at the same prison in Pendleton, Indiana. There i learned about the dedicated revolutionaries in the pages of books that George L. Jackson wrote about. The Black Panther Intercommunal Newspaper was still being published weekly, but we were not allowed to get them in the prison unhindered until the end of 1976.

I was associated with Black Liberation Army (now the New Afrikan People's Liberation Army) soldiers from Indianapolis and Saint Louis, Missouri. Prior to that an ideological and cointelpro induced split occurred inside the BPP and a certain faction focused on underground armed struggle. Upon my release from prison in July 1980, armed struggle seemed natural to me.

As a consequence of principled struggle and unselfish sacrifice, in this atmosphere of class conflict, i was captured in August 1981 for armed bank expropriation and killing a white policeman in Gary, Indiana. On 25 May 1982 i was sentenced to the penalty of death. I am still appealing the state government's ruling. My direct appeal was rejected in 1984. The Supreme Court of Indiana subsequently overturned the death sentence in 1993, but they allowed the prosecution to put it on me again in March 1996.

My story remains largely untold in these United States and elsewhere. The death penalty was pressed against me because, among other things, i declared my conscious citizenship and allegiance to the Republic of New Afrika in court. Guilt or innocence has nothing to do with it. US capital punishment is an instrument of class warfare, organized and designed to permit an elite, local and multinational, to operate without any constraint from democratic human rights processes. My case is an example.

Contact: Zolo's Campaign c/o People's Law Office, 1180 North Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60622. Ph. (773) 235-0070  
e-mail: [mdeutsch45@aol.com](mailto:mdeutsch45@aol.com)

All Power to the People!  
Rebuild to Win!  
Zolo Agona Azania  
#4969  
Indiana State Prtison  
PO Box 41  
Michigan City, Indiana 46361-0041

## POEM FOR GEORGE L. JACKSON

By Runako Gamba (New York)



They'll never wrest it away from me...these feelings built up over centuries  
They'll never steal this desire...these thoughts of freedom that burn like a fire

Conflagrations that will consume every decimal of hate  
A rage nurtured by the force of freedom...no longer can we wait

Call on your dog's...the thought of Black-Day is here  
To replace the once docile Negro...to remove the placid fear

WAR WITHOUT TERMS!

## Ya Basta Con 21

21 would weave the net,  
the web of death,  
taker of young eyes  
and tongues that would dance  
through day of sun,  
night of moon,  
sweet silver hope of love  
and embrace,  
21 would form the walls,  
hard cement against a new heart,  
the short breath of lost dreams,  
tear familias apart in bitter pain,  
leaving ninos sin padres  
y abuelitas con lagrimas secas,  
21 would be the one to run the street,  
cut off feet of ancient danzantes  
and new dancers of the circle,  
21 would break continuation,  
disappear the generations,  
would use selective vision  
in its growing hunger  
for hermanas y hermanos,  
brothers and sisters,  
21 would rule without mercy,  
sin alma,  
sin corazon,  
entonces,  
ya basta con 21,  
ya basta.

Siempre en le Lucha

Phil Goldvarg  
[Hgold42734@aol.com](mailto:Hgold42734@aol.com)

Editor's Note: Proposition 21 (the juvenile crime bill), recently passed in California, increases the crimes for which juveniles are to be tried and sentenced as adults, and stiffens penalties for juvenile crime.



## Where Are They Now?

Kathleen Neal Cleaver has spent most of her life participating in the human rights struggle. As a college sophomore, Cleaver dropped out of Barnard College in 1966 to work full time with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) where she served in the Campus Program. From 1967 to 1971 she was the Communications Secretary of the Black Panther Party, the first woman member of the Central Committee. After sharing years of exile with her former husband Eldridge Cleaver, she returned to the United States in late 1975.



She earned a B.A. in History from Yale College in 1984. In 1989, she received a J.D. from Yale Law School, then became an associate at the New York law firm of Cravath, Swaine and Moore. Afterwards, she clerked for Judge A. Leon Higginbotham of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit from 1991-1992, then embarked on a teaching career.

While an Assistant Professor of Law at Emory University, she served on the Georgia Supreme Court Commission on Racial and Ethnic Bias in the Courts and became a board member of the Atlanta-based Southern Center for Human Rights. She devoted many years to the defense of *geronimo ji jaga*, a Black Panther Party leader who won his habeas corpus petition in 1997 after being imprisoned for 27 years as a result of being framed on murder charges.

Professor Cleaver was awarded fellowships at the Bunting Institute of Radcliffe College, the W.E.B. DuBois Institute of Harvard University, and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture of the New York Public Library to complete her memoir *Memories of Love and War*, forthcoming from Random House. Her writing has appeared in numerous magazines and newspapers, including *Ramparts*, *The Black Panther*, *The Village Voice*, *The Boston Globe*, and *Transition*. She has contributed scholarly essays to the books *Critical Race Feminism*, *Critical White Studies*, and *The Black Panther Party Reconsidered*. She also co-edited a special issue of the journal *New Political Science* entitled "Liberation, Imagination and the Black Panther Party," (June 1999)

## Letters to the Editor

To Huey;

Regardless of how the final chapter in your life reads, I must thank you for my Baptism in the Black Panther Party.

The Party was my Rites of Passage, at 16 while walking down 84<sup>th</sup> and Broadway, in Los Angeles with Red Devils in one hand and Pagan Pink Ripple in the other, I spotted a fine brother, named Roland Freeman. Roland invited me in the office, I refused. He then asked me if I understood what was happening in America to our people, I gave some flip answer. My mind was on the pool hall across the street and how I was going to get my groove on.

Roland politically educated me on the spot. I sashayed off, went into the pool hall and tried to get my groove on. I stood up on the dance floor and I could not move. Roland's words kept resounding in my head. Within 40 minutes, I went back across the street; I had discarded the red devils and the wine. I was invited to come in and to take part in the political education class that was in progress. When asked to read the members looked at me as if they thought I could not read. I read, then I stood up and I broke the passage all the way down. I

*Letters continue at top of next column*

smiled and I left, this was my way of getting back at Roland for messing with my head.

On the following Monday while attending Fremont High School, as I sat in class, Roland's words kept bugging me. I soon found myself stopping by the Party office daily, within 2 weeks I was a full fledged member. I gave my all to the Party. I went from Secretary to Section Leader, I saw life and death in the Party. My life in the Party was not easy, revolution never is.

In thanking Huey, I must thank all the Sistas and Brothers, for their sacrifices. I have but one request for all former panthers and all those who have benefited from the work of the Party. Take the time to thank a Panther for their sacrifices, seek them out and thank them, do not wait until they gone to the grave to celebrate them.

Let us not forget our Political Prisoners, I challenge all Panthers to get in touch with a Political Prisoner. Make it your duty to write and to send care packages on a regular basis, be there for them until the sun rises on their departure from the hell hole, or until the sun sets...

In closing, Huey thanks for introducing me to my first love *The Revolutionary BPP*. Roland Freeman thanks for politically educating me. Kumasi, thank you for your confidence in me, you are truly *mi corazon*. Marvin Jackson thanks for being my brother and my friend and for keeping me in check. Long John wherever you are thanks for always being there. To Rashida and Kenyattah, my daughters, I am pleased to see the spirit of the panther in you.

Uhuru Na Kazi

Talibah Shakir, Los Angeles

# MUMIA'S BIRTHDAY TRAP

## PRO ARTS

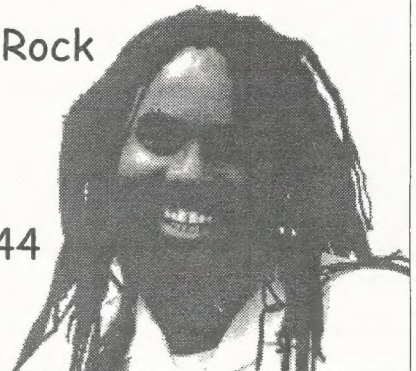
April 24, 2000

4:00-10:00 pm • 461- 9th St.

Oakland • nr 12th St. Bart

Hard Knock Rock  
KPFA

Info:  
415-391-3844  
x2







## B.J.'s Flashback

John Seale,  
Dorothy Phillips,  
(1971)



## From Panther Cubs to Young Adults

Tori Henderson-Prez,  
Attica White,  
Sojourner Bailey



Abraxas, Shelley

## EVENTS

### AFRICAN LIBERATION DAY, SACRAMENTO, CA

Saturday, May 27, 2000

McClatchy (Oak) Park

3rd Ave and 35th St., Sacramento

noon until... Music, Food, Vendors and more

For more info: (916) 929-7220, e-mail: AAPRPca@aol.com

### BENEFIT FOR NUH WASHINGTON

Political Prisoner Nuh has been in prison for 28 years for fighting for Black liberation; he has liver cancer and is still struggling. The proceeds from this benefit will go to Nuh and his family. All who know and love Nuh are invited to speak out and honor him. Nuh needs to be with US, not with THEM!

Saturday, April 22, 7:00 to 10:00 pm

Oakland, CA YWCA

1515 Webster St., \$10 - \$25 donation requested (no one turned away)

For more info: (510) 433-0115, e-mail: JerichoSFBay@hotmail.com

### WESTERN REGIONAL MASS DEMONSTRATION NEW TRIAL FOR MUMIA ABU-JAMAL!

Stop the Execution!

Saturday, May 13, San Francisco

Assemble: 11:00 am at Justin Herman Plaza (Market and Embarcadero)

Rally: 1:00 pm at the Civic Center

For more info: (415) 695-7745

### Recommended Reading:

CovertAction Quarterly, 1500 Massachusetts Ave. NW, #732

Washington, DC 20005, [www.covertaction.org](http://www.covertaction.org)

*It's About Time...*

P.O. Box 221100

Sacramento, CA 95822



Anti-Fascist Forum  
P.O. Box 6326 STATION #A  
TORONTO. ONTARIO.  
M5W 1P7 CANADA

00101/2405

